

## **Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits**

Since 1905, residents and visitors alike have enjoyed Finnon Lake for its serene setting and recreational opportunities. For several years it was owned by DF&G and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/wildlife Conservation Board project. Still today, Finnon Lake and the surrounding area are identified as a wild game preserve. However, since lowering the lake, these valuable watershed, community and economic resources have been devastated. Finnon Lake exists in a degraded state. The project will protect and improve water quality and increase surface storage area to 350 acre-feet. Restoration tasks will contribute to the protection and restoration of natural resources including restoring 350 acre feet of surface water storage, improved aquatic and fishery habitat, 5.5 acres of wetlands established, 5.9 acres of forest habitat improvement.

Restoration of Finnon Lake will provide recreational opportunities not previously available including boating, camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, equestrian trails and a Frisbee golf course and provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation.

Finnon Lake is registered on the National Registry of Historic Places and improvements will therefore protect, conserve, and restore the regions physical, cultural, archeological, historical, and living resources.

Finnon Lake was dropped by 20 feet in a single day in an effort to fight the 1994 Kelsey Fire which destroyed thousands of acres and 14 homes. Finnon Lake can no longer be utilized by responsible fire fighting agencies such as the USFS and CALFIRE. Restoration will increase the capacity and allow fire fighting agencies with a reliable water source, thereby reducing the risk of natural disasters such as wildfires.

In 1999 a Mosquito/ Swansboro Community Action Plan was completed. The plan outlines long term and short term goals, objectives, strategies and a vision of a restored lake and multi-purpose recreational area. The plan also outlines strategies to generate local community revenues for the MVFA in lieu of additional property taxes. Subsequent to lake restoration it is proposed to improve existing campsites, develop hiking and equestrian trails that access adjacent USFS off-road recreation areas, construct two piers for general boating and fishing, improve the existing restaurant for general use by the community, and provide for outdoor educational opportunities for local schools and visitors. According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 data, Placerville, Mosquito, and Swansboro are listed as communities with less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income of \$37,994.00 which are in the immediate area of the project. Project funding will bring needed resources that enhance watershed values, community economic potential and assist the regional economy